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Petition for Consent to Solemnize the Re-marriage of a Divorced Person
The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska

Petition submitted by:

The Rev._____Date _____

Address _____

Church _____

To be completed by the couple:

Name of first party _____

Have you been baptized? Yes No

Home Parish _____

Have you been married before? Yes No

If yes, how many times _____

How did that/those marriage(s) end? Death _____ Divorce _____ Annulment _____

Name of second party _____

Have you been baptized? Yes No

Home Parish _____

Have you been married before? Yes No

If yes, how many times _____

How did that/those marriage(s) end? Death_____ Divorce _____ Annulment _____

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We _____ and _____, desiring to receive the blessing of holy matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a life-long covenant of mutual fidelity and steadfast love intended by God for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one-another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the rearing up of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. And we do engage ourselves, so far as it in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and seek God's help thereto.

_____ _____ _____ _____
(Signature) (Date) (Signature) (Date)

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To be completed by the couple:

Each petitioner whose former marriage has ended in divorce or annulment shall provide on a separate paper, in his/her own handwriting a statement concerning his/her prior marriage. The Bishop needs to know what you have learned and how you have grown since the dissolution of your marriage. What new strengths do you bring to this proposed marriage? The statement should include the following:

1. What do you believe was cause of the breakdown of your prior marriage?

2. In what ways were you responsible for the breakdown?

3. In what ways was your spouse responsible?

4. Describe your attempts at marital counseling before and after the divorce.

5. Describe your spiritual life during the process of your separation and divorce.

6. Describe what repentance, forgiveness and healing you have experienced since the dissolution of your marriage.

7. What have you learned from your divorce that will help make you a better marriage partner?

8. How will you be involved in the life of the church after your marriage?

These statements will be seen only by the priest submitting the petition and the bishop. When your statement(s) have been reviewed by the Bishop they will be destroyed.

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To be completed by the priest:

Couple:

Circle "Yes" or "No" for every question. Where "No" is circled, please attach full explanation.

Yes No 1. I have personally examined the final decree(s) of divorce or civil annulment and I certify that on the basis of my examination the prior marriages(s) (is) (are) dissolved.

Yes No 2. I have met personally with both parties and they are engaged in a program of premarital instruction satisfactory to me or they have met in person with a priest of this church satisfactory to me and I have consulted that priest and am assured that they are engaged in a program of premarital counseling.

Yes No 3. Each person has signed the Declaration of Intent.

Yes No 4. At least one person is baptized.

Yes No 5. I have inquired of the parties whether they have consulted any other priest of this church regarding the proposed marriage and have personally contacted that priest. If a priest has declined to officiate, a statement concerning the circumstances of that priest's decision is attached.

Yes No 6. I have inquired of the priest of the former parish (if applicable) to ascertain pertinent pastoral information.

Yes No 7. I have thoroughly discussed with both parties their personal readiness for marriage. (Or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me. Please list the agency and/or counselor.)

Yes No 8. I believe that each person has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) leading to the termination of the previous marriage.

Yes No 9. I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and children and is acting responsibly to fulfill their moral and legal obligations.

Yes No 10. I believe the marriage of this couple is likely to be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and His Church.

(over please)

Yes No 11. I am satisfied that the couple (or at least one person with the support of the other) intends to live out their marriage with the support of the Christian community as participants in some congregation of the Church.

Yes No 12. At least one calendar year has elapsed since the date(s) of the final decree(s).

Yes No 13. I have discussed with the couple, to the degree that I believe appropriate, the spiritual aspect of:

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: Equal partnership in marriage, in-law relationship, blended families, parenting concepts.

COMMUNICATIONS: Sharing feelings, how do you deal with anger, is there mutual affirmation?

SPIRITUAL: Family rule of life, daily prayer, scripture reading, relationship with God.

FINANCIAL: Legal and insurance matters, debt, wills, budgets, who will pay the bills and balance the checkbook, stewardship pre-nuptial agreements (when either party has children by a previous marriage).

SEXUAL: Discuss the sacramental nature of marriage, fidelity, honesty, openness to communication and discussion of sexuality, birth control and family planning.

Yes No 14. I am willing to solemnize the marriage if consent is granted.

Yes No 15. I am requesting judgment at least 30 days prior to the date of wedding.
Proposed date of wedding_____.

I request consent of the Bishop to solemnize this marriage.

_____	_____	_____
Priest submitting petition	Church	Date